

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 10 - October 16, 2021

Grace and Truth

1 Corinthians 9:1-27:

Setting Aside Our Rights for the Sake of the Gospel

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

How do you react when your opinion is being ignored or challenged? Please share an example of a time this happened and how you responded.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MAIN POINTS

Rights and freedoms are wonderful, yet sometimes the higher calling we have in Christ compels us to set aside our rights and freedoms for the sake of something greater.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-12.** In these verses, Paul is posing a defense for himself for two specific questions that had arisen. Describe his statements and the questions that had arisen.
 - a. In 1 Corinthians 9:12, Paul summarizes his reason for giving up his right to be compensated as an Apostle. What is his reason? Why is this important?
 - b. Sometimes our actions as Christians can hinder our witness for the Gospel of Christ. Describe what some of these hindrances can be. How can we be more aware of our actions and prevent them from hindering the Gospel message?
 - c. Are there any rights you exercise as a citizen and as a Christian that are causing a hindrance to the Gospel? Discuss.

2. **Read 1 Corinthians 9:13-18.** Paul continues to explain his right to compensation, but he now states why he has not asked for it. What is his reason?
 - a. Is uncompensated work for the Gospel something you share in? In what ways? If not, why not?
 - b. Discuss this question: Is volunteering our time to serve the Lord in the church an act of love or an act of obligation? Explain your answer.
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.** In these verses, Paul explains how he acts in different environments and situations. Summarize and discuss his approach. In what ways can we apply this approach? Please provide some examples.
 - a. **Read Galatians 3:2.** In this text, Paul did not require Titus to be circumcised. What was his reasoning?
 - b. **Read Acts 16:3.** In this case, Paul required Timothy to be circumcised. What was his reasoning?
 - c. Do you find Paul's reasoning to be consistent with what he says in 1 Corinthians 9: 19-22? Why or why not?
4. **Read 1 Corinthians 9:23-27.** Summarize and discuss Paul's ideas in these verses. How can we, and in what ways, share in this commitment to the Gospel of Christ?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's study, what is important for you to remember and why?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for our church, our pastors and staff, and the need to accommodate current and future growth within the church. Also prayerfully consider how you might Join a Team in response to our church's growing needs.

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